

Appl. No. 10/657,803
Amdt. Dated February 22, 2005
Reply to Office Action of 11/22/2004

Attorney Docket No. 81751.0064
Customer No. 26021

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Final Office Action dated November 22, 2004. Claims 1, 6, 21, 23, 25, 27, and 29 remain in this application. Claims 1, 6, 21, and 23 are the independent Claims. Claims 1, 6, 21, and 23 have been amended. Claim 16 is cancelled without prejudice. It is believed that no new matter is involved in the amendments or arguments presented herein. Reconsideration and entrance of the amendment in the application are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, Claims 1, 21, 23, 25, and 27 were indicated to be allowable after informality objections are overcome. In addition, Claim 16 was indicated to be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant thanks the Examiner and formally recognizes the allowable subject matter of Claims 1, 16, 21, 23, 25, and 27.

Claim Objection

In the Office Action, Claims 1, 6, 21, and 23 were objected to for informalities. Applicant notes that the Examiner objected to Claim 22 in the Office Action, but meant to object to Claim 23. In response, Applicant has amended these claims in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the above objections are respectfully requested.

Art-Based Rejections

In the Office Action, Claim 6 was rejected under 35 USC §102(b) over USPN 5,677,917 (Wheelus). In response, Applicant has amended Claim 6 to include the subject matter of Claim 16, thus rendering the above rejection moot in view of the

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indicated allowability of Claim 16 as previously noted. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the above rejection are respectfully requested.

Accordingly, amended independent Claim 6 is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 337-6809 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: February 22, 2005

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